

March 4, 2021

Good Morning,

This is Alexis Kramer. This is my written Testimony for the HF784:

My name is Alexis Kramer and I am with Freedom From the Streets and No More Streets. I am a community organizer and help the homeless community and I also Advocate for families that are dealing with Child Protective Services. I am born and raised in the State of Minnesota and I am scared of Minnesota. I am a young woman of color who is a single mother of 2 beautiful children that are caught up in the foster care system because I grew up in foster care twice due to being abused and neglected. I was targeted because I had lack of education, did not understand my black culture, was getting denied help with mental health and had no life skills on how to be independent. I was also too trusting with other people and allowed four other people that I thought I could trust watch my children and as a result, at two months old, my youngest son was found with a broken ankle and I was being accused of abusing and neglecting both my children, which I would never do. But because I failed to know who hurt my children, I have 4 pending felony charges on my background that is blocking me from getting the help I need to get my life back on track to get my children back. I am unable to work, I am unable to get permanent housing, I cannot have access to Section 8 or on Social Security to help me with housing. I grew up in poverty and I am continuously paying the price for it and lost everything I had before due to what I grew up with.

Mental health is NOT a crime, Homelessness is NOT a crime and being poor is NOT a crime either. These racial disparities need to be addressed. My experience with the system is the reason why I advocate and ask that you support the 784 bill. I would like housing stability help, I would like to have a stable job, I would like to have someone who understands all the culture to help me with mental health services. I want you all to do the right thing. My African American community has struggled enough. Enough is enough! Pass the bill! Thank you.

God Bless,
Alexis Kramer

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